

Message Text

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13-61

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 IGA-02

AF-06 IO-11 /111 W

----- 101400

R 291233Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9612

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EG

SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DEBATE MILITARY DEBT

REF: (A) 75 CAIRO 12780; (B) 75 CAIRO 12884

1. PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MET JANUARY 27 BEHIND CLOSED DOORS FOR BRIEF PRESENTATION BY PM SALEM ON EGYPT'S MILITARY DEBT, FOLLOWED BY SEVERAL-HOUR DEBATE ON QUESTION. ASIDE FROM RHETORIC ON EGYPT'S ROLE IN FOREFRONT OF ARAB CAUSE AND CONTINUED NEED FOR MILITARY PREPAREDNESS, ONLY SPECIFIC ITEM BEARING ON SUBJECT APPEARING IN PRESS IS PM'S STATEMENT THAT EGYPT'S DIRECT AND INDIRECT ECONOMIC LOSSES AS CONSEQUENCE OF SEVERAL WARS TOTAL ESTIMATED LE-16,000 MILLION (\$41,000

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MILLION). PM REPORTEDLY NOTED FURTHER THAT A LARGE PART OF

MILITARY DEBT HAS BEEN SETTLED, EGYPT CONTINUES TO FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS AND TALKS ON RESCHEDULING HAVE BEEN HELD WITH SOVIETS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.

2. COMMENT: WE ARE RELIABLY INFORMED THAT NO RPT NO OTHER FIGURE WAS REVEALED TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY BY PM. LE 16,000 MILLION TOTAL IS NOT, OF COURSE, AMOUNT OF WAR DEBT. CITED FIGURE HAS BEEN BRUITED ABOUT FOR PAST TWO YEARS IN CONTEXT OF NEED FOR ADDITIONAL HELP FROM ARAB NATIONS TO ALLEVIATE BURDEN IMPOSED ON EGYPT SINCE 1967 (REFTEL A)). TALKS ON RESCHEDULING HAVE, INDEED, BEEN HELD WITH USSR ON NUMBER OF OCCASIONS. THESE TALKS BROKE DOWN MOST RECENTLY IN DECEMBER 1976 AND ARE REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED TO RECOMMENCE IN MID-1976. LOCAL PRESS IN DECEMBER STATED DEBT TO BE 3,750 MILLION RUBLES (REFTEL B), ONLY PUBLISHED EGYPTIAN INFORMATION, OFFICIAL OR UNOFFICIAL, WE HAVE SEEN ON QUESTION. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, WAR DEBTS, DEBT REPAYMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO01176
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760035-1069
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760111/aaaaaiux.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 CAIRO 12780, 76 CAIRO 12884
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DEBATE MILITARY DEBT
TAGS: EFIN, MILI, EG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006